



Artistic Research: A Powerful Engine for Europe's Prosperity, Global Competitiveness and Societal Resilience

A statement by the Artistic Research Alliance, 4 August 2025

The Artistic Research Alliance* welcomes the proposed doubling in research and innovation funding set out in the first draft of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), as suggested by the European Commission.

In response to the initial proposals that were presented for Horizon Europe (2028-2034), we believe there are still pitfalls to overcome in view of raising the excellence and international competitiveness of the European Research Area and its constituents. Following this, the Artistic Research Alliance would like to present the following recommendations for their further development and implementation:

- Art - and thus excellent artistic research - must be systematically supported as an independent knowledge domain in Horizon Europe Pillar I;
- Collaborative research across arts, culture, heritage, and creativity should be recognised as a structural component with its own dedicated financial envelope in the Competitiveness cluster under Pillar II;
- Artistic research, including in transdisciplinary settings, must be recognised as a key contributor to the Society cluster under Pillar II;
- Artistic research must be recognised as a key driver of innovation, including for regional and national development and in inter/transdisciplinary settings. The researchers and institutions bringing this field forward must be invested in as crucial actors in the knowledge triangle under Pillar III;
- As an integral part of the European research ecosystem, the field of artistic research must be supported under pillar IV across all regions of Europe.

Artistic research, research in and through the arts, is a transformative form of research and innovation within the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI), carried out by artists and creators. The field of artistic research is optimally positioned to address today's societal challenges, finding innovative solutions and increasing preparedness for green, digital, and fair transitions. It engages with a broad spectrum of methods, epistemic approaches and modes of knowledge production across disciplines such as architecture, design, film, photography, fine art, media and digital arts, music, performing arts, creative writing, and circus arts, as well as in transdisciplinary contexts.

European competitiveness and innovation is driven not only by technological advancement but also by arts, culture, heritage, and creativity. Europe's diverse languages, cultures, and artistic practices offer unique opportunities for transformation and cross-sector collaboration and growth. Artistic research plays a central role in activating this competitive potential by advancing



critical enquiry, creative confidence, and cultural competences. It drives sustainable growth and innovation in the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) and generates valuable cross-sector spillover effects to EU priority areas, such as well-being, the clean transition, and resilience.

To maintain global significance and achieve its long-term strategic objectives, the European Union must invest in forward-looking, high-impact research ecosystems. By stimulating and supporting artistic research, the EU will not only strengthen its competitiveness in key industrial areas, but also strengthen its transformative capacity and societal resilience.

In the upcoming MFF negotiations, we call on the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to take our recommendations into account and ensure they are reflected in the legal basis of the Horizon Europe programme for 2028–2034.

References to more detailed work:

- Arts and creativity in FP10: [Leaping Beyond the Now: A Vision for Research and Innovation Embedding the Arts](#) (ELIA)
- Culture in the MFF: [The Ask, Pay, Trust Campaign](#) (CAE)
- The Artistic Research Alliance: [Leveraging the Full Potential of Artistic Research](#) (ARA)

*) **The Artistic Research Alliance** represents the diverse field of artistic research, encompassing academic institutions, independent research institutions, and all artistic disciplines. With a network of approximately 1,000 institutions, we bring collective expertise to inform and shape key discussions on policy, funding, and assessment frameworks.



About the Artistic Research Alliance

The Artistic Research Alliance stands for artistic research in all its diversity, from academic institutions to independent research actors, and including research in all art practice disciplines: architecture, design, film, photography, fine art, media and digital arts, music and the performing arts, creative writing, circus, etc., as well as transdisciplinary efforts.

Members of the Artistic Research Alliance:

AEC – Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen

- Represents 315 institutional members
- [Website](#)

CILECT - International Association of Cinema, Audiovisual and Media Schools

- Represents 186 institutional members
- [Website](#)

CAE – Culture Action Europe

- Represents 116 institutional members
- [Website](#)

EAAE – European Association for Architectural Education

- Represents 100+ institutional members
- [Website](#)

ELIA – Globally connected European network for higher arts education

- Represents 290 institutional members
- [Website](#)

EQ-Arts – Independent, international Quality Assurance Agency for the Arts

- [Website](#)

GEECT – European Grouping of Film and Television Schools

- Represents 101 institutional members
- [Website](#)

MusiQuE – Music Quality Enhancement

- [Website](#)

SAR – Society for Artistic Research

- Represents 70 institutional members
- [Website](#)

Contacting the Artistic Research Alliance

All members of the Artistic Research Alliance equally represent its work. The coordination taskforce of the Artistic Research Alliance is composed of AEC, CILECT, EAAE, ELIA, EQ-Arts and SAR representatives. For inquiries, please contact the coordination taskforce through this email address: info@elia-artschools.org